

meet for a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 13, 1996, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF HUDSON, NH ON ITS 250th ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of Hudson, NH, on their town's 250th anniversary. The town's residents will begin celebrating this historic occasion on June 21 with a number of festivities including a grand ball, parade, and block party events. I was proud to participate in this meaningful celebration.

Hudson's history first dates back to the year 1672 when families first settled in the Hudson area. On July 5, 1746, then Governor and Command in Chief Benning Wentworth signed the town's first charter. As Hudson and the surrounding areas began to grow, the first bridge was built across the Merrimack River there in 1827.

Many descendants of the town's first settlers still live in Hudson. Near the end of the 18th century, Simon Robinson settled on the north side of the pond later named the Robinson Pond. Originally, the pond was called Little Massabesic meaning the place of much water. Some of Simon Robinson's descendants still reside there. In addition, James Hills was one of the three brothers credited with being the first settlers in the town and his great-grandson settled on Alvirne, the old 181 acre Derry Road homestead, and had several children.

Hudson opened their first library in 1797. The Nottingham West Social Library was founded during that year, and served the town residents for 50 years. In 1856, the Hudson Center Library opened its doors. Then, in 1891, Adoniram Greeley gave his private collection of 1,878 books to the town. The library was renamed the Greeley Public Library and in 1908, Alfred Hills donated money for the construction of a new library, the Hills Memorial Library.

Today, the 20,000 people of Hudson still exhibit the Yankee traditions and commonsense values of their forefathers. The first school houses were built in Hudson in 1806. Since then, the school system has grown steadily to include three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Alvirne High School has 1,032 students in grades 9 through 12, including 349 students from Litchfield. The police department has 50 officers and staff, the fire department has 28 full-time firemen and 26 volunteer firemen. The town also has a board of selectmen form of government.

I congratulate the town of Hudson, and all of the dedicated and patriotic citizens there. I am proud to be their Senator.●

PLAYING IT CLOSE TO THE VEST

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, Richard Cohen, the thoughtful columnist at the Washington Post, recently had an op-ed piece on gambling in the United States titled, "Playing It Close to the Vest." It is a hard hitting, but factual presentation of the situation that we face today.

One of the things that I noted, was the reference to the lottery in Maryland. He writes:

Gambling has yet another dirty secret. It makes a lot of money from those who can least afford to lose it. For instance, residents of Baltimore, Maryland's poorest jurisdiction, wager \$316 per capita on the State lottery; for Montgomery County, the State's richest jurisdiction, the figure is \$115. Lest you think that phenomenon applies only in Maryland, look anywhere lottery tickets are sold.

The problem with the lottery is only a small tip of a much bigger iceberg.

I ask that the op-ed piece written by Richard Cohen be printed in the RECORD.

The op-ed follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 28, 1996]

PLAYING IT CLOSE TO THE VEST

(By Richard Cohen)

I am thinking now of one of the "God-father" movies in which the young Michael Corleone, having transplanted his family and operations to Nevada, bluntly tells a U.S. senator what to do and how to do it. That sort of thing, of course, could never happen today. Instead, the gambling industry merely makes political contributions and hosts fund-raisers. For most politicians, that's the offer they can't refuse.

By way of illustration let us look at the progress of a proposal to establish a national commission to study gambling. This is not the worst idea to come out of Washington, because not much is known about gambling's real impact. Twenty years ago, only two states had some form of gambling; now only two states do not. So it seemed to Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) and Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) that a study was in order.

That, though, was easier proposed than done. The resolution passed the House, but the Senate has been a different story. There, opposition of the gambling industry has slowed things down, and the post-Dole leadership reportedly is hostile to the study. The American Gaming Association ("Gaming?") has bought itself a trifecta of top lobbyists and has thrown oodles of money into, particularly, the Republican Party.

Steve Wynn, owner of Las Vegas' Mirage casino company, now has the sort of entry into GOP circles that was once reserved for captains of industry. Little wonder. Last June, he hosted a fund-raiser for Bob Dole. The take: \$478,000. In June 1994, he raised \$540,000 for the GOP. Just possibly for this reason, Newt Gingrich recently proposed that the gambling commission not even have subpoena power. Just by coincidence, he made this proposal in Las Vegas. Family values at work again.

The "gaming" industry insists that there is really nothing to study. Gambling—er, gaming—is heavily regulated and state controlled and so clean that you can see mommies with their kiddies at the slots in Vegas. But that, of course, is the problem. It would be interesting to know just how many mommies are gambling away their kids' milk money as they feed the slots or, worse, video poker machines. The poker machines, in particular, are known for their addictive charm.

Gambling is a huge business. It takes in more money than the movies, baseball, football, theme parks or just about anything else you can name. About 70 million people attend professional baseball games annually, but 125 million go to casinos, where there is never a rainout, but then the sun never shines, either.

Americans wagered nearly \$500 billion in 1994 and lost about \$40 billion of that total. Most of the losers could afford what they left on the table, but some, clearly, could not. These compulsive gamblers—maybe no more than 4 percent to 6 percent of all players—may well account for at least 25 percent of the gambling industry's profits. They are to gambling what pint buyers are to the liquor industry: a gold mine and a dirty shame.

Gambling has yet another dirty secret. It makes a lot of money from those who can least afford to lose it. For instance, residents of Baltimore, Maryland's poorest jurisdiction, wager \$316 per capita on the state lottery; for Montgomery County, the state's richest jurisdiction, the figure is \$115. Lest you think that phenomenon applies only in Maryland, look anywhere lottery tickets are sold.

Here and there in this country, in weird pockets of liberalism and in homes for the aged, some people can be found who still care about the poor. As for the rest, we mostly don't care if they spend more than they can afford or if the government, through the false hope of a lottery, imposes what amounts to a "dream tax" on those who can least afford it. No more government as nanny. If people want to gamble, let them gamble.

But let us not fool ourselves. Some of them will gamble the rent money, and some will become addicted to games like Keno and after a while, maybe the money that states collect from gambling in going out in social services. It's one thing for the mob to bleed the poor; it's quite another thing for the state to do the same thing.

Whatever the case, little is known about gambling's impact, and, it seems, the gambling industry likes it that way. It pretends that what was once an industry dominated by the mob is now the equivalent of a state fair. Not quite. Politicians still are on the take, and the poor are still being victimized. Little wonder the gaming industry is so reluctant to have the feds take a look. It sells fantasy, but often delivers misery.●

VIRGINIA GIRLS STATE

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am pleased today to applaud the 50th anniversary of the Virginia Girls State. Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, the Virginia Girls State provides high school girls with leadership and citizenship training during a week-long program held on college campuses across the country. This program features learning by doing activities which teach young women the duties, privileges, and rights of American citizenship—the backbone of democracy.

This magnificent program reinforces to our young citizens the notion that they are an essential part of their government and responsible for its character and success. Through the program, the young women are taught the value of individual responsibility to the community, State, and Nation.

The United States of America was founded on, and will flourish because of, the principles of democracy. I